

Overview

With record-breaking growth of 435% in the 1990s, Draper requested planning assistance to catch up with the demands on its landscape. This plan is a vision for how Draper can shape future development in harmony with natural resources. Draper still has substantial amounts of open lands. With about half of its land yet unbuilt, many of these parcels are important to residents and for their natural resources.

2000 Planning Grant Summary

Grant Amount:	\$15,000
Matching Dollars:	\$10,000 (\$5,000 in-kind)
Match:	\$15,000
Project Cost:	\$30,000

Draper City Open Space Conservation Plan

Local Responsibility

Draper landowners and developers were invited to a workshop to learn about open space protection and offer their input on a conservation plan. After going through their green space identification and mapping exercise, they were asked to rank their priority open spaces. Corner Canyon and the Jordan River Parkway were key parcels identified.

State Leadership

The Quality Growth Commission provided Draper City with a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to develop the Draper Open Space Conservation Plan-From Peaks to Parkway.

Economic Development

Little support was expressed for a strong agricultural or rural presence, so resources are better spent on land with ecological and recreation qualities. While many of the developers agreed that they would like to see much of the significant landscapes in Draper preserved, they viewed many of the parcels as more valuable for development than open land. Incorporating the CEDAR design process in new developments can enhance a house sites desirability and value. Siting homes in this manner provides developers with a strong marketing advantage.

Infrastructure Development

To accomplish the strategies for protecting open space, it is recommended that Draper City secure funds for a staff committed to administering an open space system. One or more staff members would be responsible for planning, acquisitions, policy-making, management, and maintenance of open spaces.

Housing Opportunity

Throughout the process of examining Draper's zoning and subdivision ordinances and General Plan, an emphasis was placed on blending green space conservation with new development. After revisions to subdivision ordinances and locating green space, the next step is to select house location, with homes positioned to take maximum advantage of the green space in neighborhood squares, commons, greens, playing fields, greenways, farmland, or forest preserves. The next step would require aligning streets and trails to serve the new homes.

Conservation Ethic

This plan will be utilized by the Draper City to identify and acquire critical and sensitive properties in various locations within the City. In addition, the project-planning grant will provide for the creation of an acquisition plan for the properties listed on the open space conservation plan map.

"Without the assistance from the grant program, Draper City would not have been able to pay for and complete the study of open space as quickly as it did. This would have meant that more land could have been developed that should have been preserved."

Eric Keck-City Manager

Implementation

Draper City's open space conservation plan was adopted by the Draper City Council in 2001 and is being utilized extensively as a guiding document for properties to preserve as open space as well as a guide to which sensitive lands to acquire. The project-planning grant has also allowed for the creation of an acquisition plan for the properties indicated in the open space conservation plan map.

Promoting Intelligent Growth

This is currently being utilized to begin the acquisition of critical and sensitive properties in various locations within the City. It would have been impossible for the City to pay for the total cost of the plan without the planning grant. The plan allowed the city to determine where it wanted to go in the future and provided a path to take to meet its desired future. The Open Space Conservation Plan has provided clear direction to both the development community and planning staff on which properties are to be maintained as open space. This prevents development from cutting off critical open space connections as well as ensures the preservation of green corridors.

Accomplishments

The plan also further restricts development in both the river sensitive and hillside areas. The City has acquired two parcels delineated with the Open Space Conservation Plan map as well as helped to control and mitigate the further loss of properties in sensitive areas to development. The City has benefited greatly from the grant. Without the assistance from the grant program, Draper City would not have been able to pay for and complete the study of open space as quickly as it did. This would have meant that more land could have been developed that should have been preserved.

Benefits

The grant has really provided Draper with some great information and tools to help preserve and protect critical and sensitive land areas throughout the community as well as protect open space corridors for recreational and wildlife use.